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SPREADING THE WORD IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Royal Black Institution has teamed up with two Christian charities to help people in war-torn South Sudan.

The Institution's 2014 charity appeal will support the Bible Society in Northern Ireland (BSNI) and Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and will be used to send Bibles to Christians in South Sudan and bring humanitarian aid to remote and hard to reach communities.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is an international Christian aviation organisation whose mission is to see the lives of isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Jesus' name.

Serving in 25 developing countries, they bring help and hope to over 1,800 remote destinations. Using dirt, grass and mountain airstrips, MAF provides a lifeline of essential medical care, food and water supplies, relief teams and church workers to some of the poorest people in the world.

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland works in partnership with its sister society in South Sudan as

part of a worldwide Fellowship that serves 200 countries. BSNI seeks to reach everyone with God's Word in a language and medium they can access and afford, so that each person might experience God's purpose for their life.

This requires Bible translation, Bible printing, and also a wide range of distribution arrangements which, in South Sudan, will involve close co-operation with MAF.

Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, said he was delighted the Institution was supporting the charities.

"It is a further extension of our Christian and charitable outreach," he said. "It will help us spread the message of the gospel, a core principal of our organisation. The Bible Society will provide the Bibles and MAF will fly them into Sudan, where there is a strong

desire to learn more about the Christian message."

He added, "We are very pleased to be in partnership with two such well-established and respected Christian charities, who have been working successfully around the world for many years."

Continued on Page 4



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Message from the Sovereign Grand Master

Sir Knights, THE Lord Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and the Royal Black Institution is blessed to be in the fortunate position to fundraise for two very worthy efforts as part of the Institution's 2014 Charity Appeal.

The Royal Black Institution has teamed up with two Christian charities to help people in war-torn South Sudan and we are pleased to announce that this year's Appeal will support the Bible Society in Northern Ireland and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

The money raised in 2014 will be used to send Bibles to Christians in South Sudan and bring hu-

manitarian aid to remote and hard to reach communities.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is an international Christian aviation organisation, whose mission is to see the lives of isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Jesus' name.

The Bible Society in Northern Ireland works in partnership with its sister Society in South Sudan as part of a worldwide Fellowship that serves 200 countries.

More information on these two worthy charities will appear elsewhere in this edition of "The Black" magazine.

I have no doubt that the

members of the Institution will rally behind this year's Charity Appeal, as they have always done and make a difference to the people of South Sudan."

The Royal Black Institution has a proud charity record, having raised more than half a million pounds in the past decade.

The money has gone to:

- Chest, Heart and Stroke Association
- Action MS
- Open Doors Ministry in Sudan
- Diabetes Research
- Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda
- Alzheimer's Society

All thanks go to Pre-



ceptories and Sir Knights for your very kind generosity. I have no doubt the new Charity Appeal will be equally well supported.

Before ending, could I, on behalf of the Royal Black Institution, extend my own thanks and those of the Sir Knights to Wor Sir Knight William Abernethy, who

has stepped down as Imperial Grand Treasurer of the Institution, a position he has held for 15 years.

Sir Knight Abernethy has been a stalwart to the Royal Black Institution and my personal thanks go to him for his unfailing help and support.

We also extend a warm Royal Black welcome to his successor, Wor Sir Knight David Livingstone of Eglish, County Tyrone and wish him God's Richest Blessing as he takes up the new position of Imperial Grand Treasurer.

Yours,

*Most Wor Sir Knight
Millar Farr, Sovereign
Grand Master*

East Belfast hosts Take 5 exhibition

Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 hosted the Take 5 exhibition on Saturday, 25th January, 2014 in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall as part of a programme of events to mark its 120th anniversary as a District Chapter.

The exhibition was hosted in conjunction with a coffee morning to raise money for the Grand Master's 2014 charity appeal. The exhibition included display boards, leaflets and the use of the Take 5 CD on newly installed display equipment within the Orange Hall.

The coffee morning was held in parallel between 10am-12pm and raised £107.56. The display remained in place for a quiz held that evening by No.4 District during which Sir Knight Jim Crooks acted as quiz master. This raised a further £230 for the Black Institution's charity appeal.

No.4 District started its 120th anniversary fund-raising a year early with a number of events held in 2013 including a St Patrick's Day social night, a Black Sat-

urday social night and a quiz night. The District intends to present a cheque to the IGBC at the end of 2014 for its charity appeal as the climax of No.4's 120th celebrations.

Following the £337.56 raised during the Take 5 exhibition, the District Chapter has currently raised over £1,000 with further money to come in for jewels and badges and further events planned for 2014.

Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 has an anniversary church parade set to leave Templemore Avenue at 2.30pm on Sunday, 23rd March, 2014, a parade around East Belfast on Saturday, 17th May, 2014 leaving Templemore Avenue at 7.30pm, another quiz planned for 1st November 2014 and a dinner planned in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall on Saturday, 29th November 2014 (the District's exact anniversary of its installation meeting 120 years previous).

It is hoped that the District might raise £3,000 by the time it is finished.



Sir Knight Robert Aiken receives his 70 year medal from Most Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master. Photos kindly supplied by Mrs Valerie McMorris.



Officers of Ballinamallard Crimson Heroes, RBP 272, Fermanagh congratulating Sir Knight Robert Aiken on his 70 years' service. Back row (from left) Andrew Smallwoods, Reg, David Black, WDM Enniskillen No.1, Howard McMorris, Chaplain and George Hamilton, Treasurer. Front (from left) Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr, SGM, Robert Aiken and Gordon Lee, WM.

Spreading the Word in South Sudan

Continued from
Page 1

I have no doubt that the members of the Institution will really get behind this year's charity appeal, as they have always done, and make a difference to the people of South Sudan."

Jeremy Abbott of MAF said they are delighted to have been chosen at one of this year's charities.

"MAF is all about partnership. Working closely with sup-

**"They
need the
reassurance
of God's
love."**

porters at home and aid organisations and church groups in the developing world, we are able to reach places in minutes, replacing journeys that would otherwise take many hours, or even days, to complete.

"We are therefore delighted to be working in partnership with the Royal Black Institution and the Bible Society in order to bring about transformational change in South Sudan, which is in such desperate need."

Reverend Richard Kerr added, "As Chair of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland, I am deeply grateful to the Royal Black Institution for their generosity which will enable our Society and Mission Aviation Fellowship to expand our

support for the people of South Sudan.

"Right now, they are experiencing the effects of continuing unrest in the country and they need the reassurance of God's love. The Bibles that will be distributed will be a great comfort to people who are continuing to suffer as a result of community conflict there."

The 2014 appeal will build on the Institution's strong record in charity work that has raised more than half a million pounds in the past decade and helped organisations such as Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Action MS, Open Doors Ministry in Sudan, Diabetes Research, Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda and the Alzheimer's Society.



Pictured at the launch of the 2014 Charity Appeal are (from left) William Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar, Jeremy Abbott, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master, Leah McKibben, Bible Society and John Doherty, Bible Society.

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100th Birthday



Mrs Lottie Laverty, reached her 100th birthday in 2013, and to mark the occasion was sent flowers by the Sir Knights of RBP 1107 from Tamnificarbett in Portadown District. Lottie is the mother of County Chaplain, Rev Maurice Laverty, and has always been a faithful supporter of the Loyal Orders in Tamnificarbett, seeing the men off each 12th and 13th of July for many years.

The Cushnie Room in Brownlow House is available to Preceptories and District Chapters for Installations, Presentations etc.

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DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF THIS MAGAZINE:

Autumn 2014 Edition

Deadline for reports/photos is 22 August 2014 (for details other than Black Saturday)

Deadline for Black Saturday coverage is 05 September 2014

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New Imperial Grand Treasurer

Sir Knight David Livingstone, new Imperial Grand Treasurer, is looking forward to the challenge of occupying one of the top offices in the Royal Black Institution.

It is hardly surprising that Sir Knight Livingstone is the ideal officer to step into the shoes of his predecessor, Sir Knight William Abernethy, who performed such sterling service during the 15 years he held the position. This is because he held the office of Deputy Imperial Grand Treasurer for the past 10 years, so he has an abundance of experience of what is required.

"Sir Knight Abernethy will be a hard act to follow, as he was such an outstanding officer. I will certainly do my best to fulfil the duties to the same standard, and I have been greatly encouraged by the messages of support I have received since being appointed," he said.

David Livingstone comes from a County Armagh family steeped in Orange and Black tradition. Born and brought up in the Killymaddy area of the county, David (54) is the eldest of five sons of Wesley and the late Marina Livingstone. David, his father and four

brothers, Stanley, Randal, Cedric and Clarence, are all members of Stronge Memorial LOL 318, Lisnafeedy; they are also all Sir Knights in Peel's Chosen Few RBP 26. David's father was Worshipful Master of LOL 318 for 32 years, and also held the offices of District Treasurer, Deputy District Master, and District Master of Killylea District LOL No. 7. David's mother, Mrs Marina Livingstone, was a member of the Association of Loyal Orange Women of Ireland and was a Past Mistress of WLOL 199.

The Orange tradition goes back a number of generations on both sides of David's family so it is hardly surprising that, when he was old enough to join the Order, there was no holding him back.

"It wasn't a question of 'will you join?' but rather 'when can I become a member?'" he recalls. David's enthusiasm soon resulted in him being promoted within his Lodge; he has been Worshipful Master on two occasions and is currently Chaplain. But it is the Royal Black Institution in which David has really excelled in his contribution so far to the Loyal Orders.

"Sir Knight Livingstone said that his own personal faith is strengthened by his membership of the Royal Black Institution."

He held the position of Registrar in his private Preceptory for 16 years, and is a Past Master. At more senior level, Sir Knight Livingstone held the office of Treasurer of Primatial (Armagh) Royal Black District Chapter No 4 for three years, and was District Registrar for 10 years. David was Deputy District Master for five years, and he has been District Master for the past 9 years. His impressive record of service to the Institution also includes 13 years as County Grand Treasurer of County Armagh Grand Black Chapter, and he has been Deputy County Grand Master for the last three years.

It's hardly surprising that Sir Knight Livingstone's commitment to the Loyal Orders doesn't give him much time for hobbies, but he doesn't complain. He stressed the importance of the support he receives from his wife Lorraine, in his service to the Loyal Orders.

David and Lorraine are parents of three girls. Lorraine is the daughter of the Rev. John Batchelor, now retired, former rector of Killylea

and Drumsollen, and a Chaplain in the Royal Black Institution.

One of David's keen interests is the Chapter Choir, formed by members of the Black Institution, which sings at services and fund-raising events for deserving charities. Rt Wor. Sir Knight Samuel Gardiner was a driving force in the formation of the Chapter Choir back in 1997, and David is enthusiastic about the part it plays in raising money for a range of good causes.

Sir Knight Livingstone is a teacher in City of Armagh High School, and he brings the same Christian commitment to his job as he does in his sterling service to the Black Institution. A member of the teaching profession for 32 years, he is also a member of the Board of Governors of City of Armagh High School, Chair of Governors of Churchill Primary School (Caledon) and is on the Board of Governors of Drumsallen Primary School.

A dedicated member of the Church of Ireland, David worships at St John's Parish Church, Caledon, where he is currently People's Churchwarden, and Sunday School Superintendent.

"It's a vibrant church, with some 70 families. The Rector is the Rev Bill Atkins, who recently took up his appointment, he is a wonderful Bible teacher and faithful Pastor, and we are indeed blessed to have him as our minister" he said.

The work of Sunday Schools in teaching young people about Jesus and the Bible is something David holds dear, and he has been a Sunday School teacher for the past 38 years.

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Sir Knight William Abernethy who stood down as Imperial Grand Treasurer recently after 15 years of service

ready for the challenge of Office



Sir Knight David Livingstone, new Imperial Grand Treasurer.

"It is of the utmost importance that, in today's increasingly materialistic society, our young people are brought up in the Christian faith, and the Sunday School movement has always played a key role in this," he said.

One of the people who played a big part in David's own Christian upbringing was his aunt, Phil McCoy, who was a Sunday School teacher for 60 years!

"She was a wonderful person and one who was an inspiration to so many people," he said.

David and his wife and family live on a farm close to Dungannon in the townland of Boland. Interestingly his home is in the shadow of Boland Orange Hall which is the meeting place of the Preceptory to which the Sovereign Grand Master, Sir Knight Millar Farr, belongs.

Sir Knight Livingstone's deep involvement in the Royal Black Institution for many years means he is well placed to give his views on its condition and prospects.

"I am very optimistic about the Institution and am convinced it will continue to be an influential organisation in our society," he said. He fully supports the current drive for recruits in the Order and said the standards expected for membership would be maintained.

"The Royal Black Institution is first and foremost a Christian

organisation - I believe it is well placed to continue to take a stand for the Reformed Faith in every part of the world where it is found" he said.

Sir Knight Livingstone is pleased that so many members of the Black Institution play a leading part in their communities, and is confident that this will continue to be the case. Sir Knight Livingstone said that his own personal faith is strengthened by his membership of the Royal Black Institution.

As Worshipful District Master of Primatial District Sir Knight Livingstone is looking forward to hosting the Last Saturday demonstration in the City of Armagh this year.

"Visiting Districts will include Summerisland and three from County Tyrone - Killyman, East Tyrone and Aughnacloy; there will also be Preceptories from south of the Border and we will be delighted to welcome them - it is always a very impressive and dignified parade," he said.

Sir Knight Livingstone commented that the last time Armagh hosted the demonstration, 10 years ago, the late Sir Knight Raymond Nesbitt was the District Master.

"Sir Knight Nesbitt was a tremendous worker for the Loyal Orders, an inspirational person, and he was one of those who helped me

so much in the Black Institution. I am also very grateful to the Grand Registrar, Sir Knight William Scott, for his great support and encouragement," he said. "I have learned a lot from Billy during the past 30 years, and he has been very supportive."

Sir Knight Livingstone is very enthusiastic about the record of the Royal Black Institution in raising funds for various deserving charities. As he pointed out, the Sir Knights have raised £513,000 for six designated charities since 2002; and he expressed his excitement regarding the current charity appeal which will raise funds for the Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Bible Society.

The money raised will bring much needed spiritual and humanitarian aid to the people of Southern Sudan. Sir Knight Livingstone is confident there will be the same generous response by the membership to this appeal as to all the other worthy causes the Institution has supported.

Sir Knight Livingstone said that one of the most memorable Black events of the past year had been the Take Five Service held in Carlisle

Road Presbyterian Church, Londonderry, last September.

"It was a wonderful parade and service, with the Church packed to capacity, a fitting tribute by the Royal Black Institution to Londonderry's year as UK City of Culture. It was very uplifting to be there with over 800 fellow Sir Knights. The tremendous collection of £2,750, which was donated to Gideon's International, was also very pleasing and much appreciated by those who received it."

Sir Knight Livingstone paid tribute to the leadership of the Sovereign Grand Master, Most Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr. He also praised the contribution of Mrs Allison Diffin, at Brownlow House headquarters, and said that her pleasant and helpful attitude was much appreciated by those who had occasion to contact the office and raise matters concerning the Order.

Sir Knight Livingstone expressed his thanks to all those who have encouraged and supported him in his new position and emphasised his desire to do all he can to further the aims of this wonderful institution.

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Celebrating 175 years

Erin's First Royal Blues RBP No 1 Tandragee District celebrated their 175th Anniversary with two special events in November 2013.

A brief history of the Preceptory from old records show a hand-painted triangle-shaped picture with 'THE GRAND BLACK' printed around the angles and, in the centre of the triangle, Orange Lodge No. 1st. Below that is written 'TANDRAGEE' and the date 9th November 1838 followed by the names of the Officers and Committee. The WM was George Whitten and the DM James Hudson. We were granted permission to the title of 'Erin's First Royal Blues' on 30th December, 1883.

The first anniversary event was held on Friday, 22nd November and was a 'Black Ball and dinner dance' in the Tandragee District Orange Hall.

Among the special guests were the SGM Sir Knight Millar Farr, CGM Sir Knight William H. Scott who opened and closed the Ball, Tandragee District Master Sir Knight Alan T. Wilson, and

Tandragee Orange District Master Sir Knightt and Bro David Bleakney, accompanied by their wives.

After the dinner, the Sir Knights, visitors and friends danced into the wee small hours to the music of 'Stonewall'.

The second event was an Anniversary Service, held in Ballymore Parish Church on Sunday, 24th November.

Imperial Officers, County Officers, District Officers and Sir Knights paraded from Tandragee Orange Hall for the Service conducted by Rev. Shane Forster. The parade was led by Roughan Silver Band and the special speaker at the service was ASGM Sir Knight Rev. Nigel Reid.

Scripture readings were by SGM Sir Knight Millar Farr and Sir Knight Keith Johnston Lay Chaplain RBP No.1.

County Armagh Black Chapter Choir, Lily of the Valley Choir from Co. Tyrone and soloist Sir Knight Paul Berry took part. The offering was taken up on behalf of the Institution's 2014 Designated Charity.



Sir Knight Tommy Millar (PM), Sir Knight George Hamilton (PM) and Sir Knight Ronnie Black at 175th Anniversary Black Ball.



Members who took part in Erin's First Royal Blues RBP No. 1's 175th Anniversary Black Ball with special guests Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master and William H Scott, County Grand Master.



Sir Knight Brent Diffin, Deputy Master RBP No.1 presents Most Wor. Sir Knight Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master, with a gift at Erin's First Royal Blues RBP No. 1 Anniversary Black Ball and Dinner.



Banbridge man Andy McRoberts, Rathfriland Royal British Legion Standard Bearer, pictured during a colourful display at an evening of music, entertainment and remembrance hosted by Battlehill Pipe Band at Tandragee Junior High School on Saturday 22nd February. Sir Knight Andrew Assistant Sovereign Grand Master of the Imperial Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth and is also Past Master of Whitehill LOL No 258 and Grand Lodge Representative for Lower Iveagh District LOL No 1.



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- 14th July** **Lurgan RBDC No2 – Bangor**
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Alan Hudson for media. No stalls
- 2nd August** **Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England - Southport**
- 2nd August** **Co Fermanagh Grand Black Chapter - Lisbellaw**
- 9th August** **Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland - Edinburgh**
- 30th August** **Co Antrim Grand Black Chapter Ballyclare**
(SGM attending)
- 30th August** **Summerisland/Primatial Dist/ South an d East Tyrone – Armagh**
- 30th August** **City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter – Larne**
Media contact to be issued prior to the day – no stalls
- 30th August** **Co Down Grand Black Chapter – Rathfriland**
- 30th August** **Co Londonderry Grand Black Chapter – Londonderry**
- 30th August** **North and West Tyrone - Donemana**

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Friends of Sloan House

The fourth annual general meeting of the Friends of Sloan's House was held in Dan Winter's Ancestral Cottage, at The Diamond, Loughgall, on the 218th anniversary of the Battle of the Diamond.

Over 65 members of the Friends support group were present, the highest attendance so far. All were welcomed by the chairman, Sir Knight Denis Watson, who gave an overview of the past year's work of the Friends and, in particular, the Sloan's House Management Committee. He confirmed that work would be starting in the near future on the renovation and extension to the museum and he thanked all those who had assisted in getting the project to this stage.

Sir Knight Isaac Be-

attie, from the Cavanapole Cultural and Heritage Group, Killylea, then gave the annual lecture on the 'Ulster Volunteers'; this was most informative and interesting, and several of those present related their own family memories of this period in our history, 100 years ago.

The Worshipful Master, Sir Knight William Andrew Spence, and the members of 'Grip Fast The Light' RBP 54, Markethill, then presented their old banner for display in the new museum and this was gratefully received by Mr Watson, along with some other valuable artefacts, kindly donated by members of the Friends. RBP 54 unfurled a new banner on 13th July morning before going to Scarva for the annual demonstration.



Pictured (back row, from left) at the AGM of Friends of Sloan's House are Sir Knight Colin Hopps; Sir Knight Robert Walker, Treasurer; Sir Knight Roger Gardiner, Registrar; and Sir Knight Jim Copeland, PDM Markethill RBDC No 3. Front row (from left) Sir Knight William Andrew Spence, WM; Sir Knight Denis Watson, Chair of Friends; Sir Knight Joe Campbell, Deputy Chair of Friends; and Sir Knight David McCullough, PM RBP 54.



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Long Service Medal



Sir Knight William Hetherington (left) Worshipful Master of Cloughfin RBP No 58, presenting a 50 year long service medal to Sir Knight Norman Drummond, prior to the Last Saturday parade in Castlederg. See page 20 for more presentations

Don't ignore our heritage

Reflections by Worshipful Sir Knight Rev. John A Noble, Deputy Grand Chaplin

We are now into the third year of what has officially been described as the Decade of Centenaries, marking the events of 1912-22 on the island of Ireland. Already there have been a number of commemorations marking significant events in the anti-Home Rule crisis, including the Covenant Day parade in Belfast on 29th September 2012.

For those who are a little older, the last quarter century or so has marked the tercentenaries of the Shutting of the Gates of Londonderry and its Relief, the Battle of the Boyne and that at Newtownbutler, the bicentenaries of the Orange and Royal Black Institutions and the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Dolly's Brae - to name a few. These are highly significant dates in our history and it has been a privilege to live through and participate in the commemoration of such anniversaries.

We do, of course, live in the

present and for the future, but our past has helped shape what we are today as a people. As an Institution we are looking forward to 2017 and the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg Cathedral - this act, the beginning of the Reformation, did so much to define us as the Protestant people that we are. We do not live in the past, as some would accuse us of, but neither can we ignore our heritage.

As the Royal Black Institution, we firmly believe that we possess a Godly heritage, we look to Luther and the Reformers and to the sacrifices made by our forefathers and we acknowledge all that has been done in our name throughout history.

Yet the most important reflection that we need to embrace focusses on the emblem of the Red Cross that we wear on our collarettes - the symbol, along with the crown, of our Institution and the final degree. This too relates to history, to an event almost 2,000 years ago; one that has shaped mankind and changed the lives of so many right to this very day. It

is, of course, a cross of death; the place where Christ Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour, gave His life to redeem His people from the wrath of God that their sins deserve. Christ was born to die; the blood sacrifice which God demands for the forgiveness of sin was made on that cross.

God had created man in the Garden of Eden, but Eve and Adam abused this privilege and the harmonious relationship between the Creator and His creatures was destroyed by sin. In Jesus Christ we have One who willingly gave His life for our sin; He had no need to die, but, in obedience of the Father, he gave His life - "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15v13).

The death of Jesus is not a mere example of human sacrifice as we know it in so many of our commemorations; it is a wonderful expression of God's love for sinners. And in Him we have the One who died as the sin bearer. He bore the punishment for the sin of His people. In John 3v16 we are reminded that the death of Christ is sufficient

for all but only efficient for those who believe; through death and resurrection Jesus is victorious that sinners might have the victory.

And yet, it is not enough to merely acknowledge that Jesus died; faith, real faith, saving faith is knowing and declaring that Jesus died for me. The Red Cross of a Black Sir Knight is an outward symbol of Christ's death but it is in the heart that this sacrifice becomes personal. It is within that that a commitment to Christ is made and a soul saved. It is looking back to Calvary, knowing what Christ has done for me that matters in the present and looks forward to the prospect of eternity in heaven with Him.

Whilst we give thanks, we remember, we commemorate so much of our history and its impact on the present day; we need to be mindful that if the significance of the Red Cross which we wear on our regalia has not found a place in our heart then our past and present will lead only to a future lost eternity all because we did not accept that Christ died on that cross for me.

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TD Rice Anniversary

Saturday 31st August marked a remarkable anniversary of 30 years of unbroken association between Sir TD Rice Memorial Royal Black Perceptory 689 Encamped at Ballycoan, Saintfield District, Co Down and Downpatrick Defenders Flute Band.

In October, 1982, the Preceptory began to look for a band for the 1983 demonstration to be held in Downpatrick under the auspices of Lecale district No 2. In late 1982 and early 1983 a number of meetings took place between a delegation from the Preceptory and the committee of the band. After hearing the band play, and the band accepting the Preceptory's requirements for the year, it was agreed that Downpatrick Defenders Flute Band be engaged and the band captain, Stephen Strain, be contacted and informed of the Preceptory's decision.

Over the following 30 years the partnership has flourished, with the two organisations travelling around the county together. In fact, this is their third circuit together!

Over the last 30 years, the band



Sir TD Rice Memorial Royal Black Perceptory 689 and Downpatrick Defenders Flute Band marking the 30th anniversary of the association between the two organisations at the Last Saturday.

has also fulfilled other duties, including the Preceptory's Annual Divine Service in Carryduff Presbyterian Church and Saintfield District Service.

Also during this time, the band has changed in personnel, but the core has remained, with six founder members still in place – Stephen Strain, Andy Galway, Stanley Watson, John McCandless, Stewart Strain and Andrew Macauley – and still key to the continued success of

the band.

Within Sir TD Rice Memorial, there are seven Sir Knights who were there at the beginning of this 30-year association – Jim Davison, Fred Johnston, George Thompson, Alan Johnston, Jack McKeown, Norman Johnston and Wilbert Thompson – all of whom remain active in the Preceptory.

To mark the 30th anniversary, a number of presentations were made on the Last Saturday. The Pre-

ceptory presented a framed copy of the details recorded in the minutes dealing with the band from those early days while the bass drum heads were suitably inscribed with the anniversary details.

The band presented Sir TD Rice Memorial with a set of mallets and bases to be used at future meetings, again all suitably inscribed and also carrying a Black standard with the Preceptory name to mark the day.

Discovery Tours



Trips for 2014

Weekend Trips

Galway 2nd -4th May

Royal Highland Show 20th -22nd June

Yorkshire Show 6th -9th July

Edinburgh Military Tattoo 8th -10th August

Day Trips

Rossnowlagh – Twelfth- 5th July

Boyne Centre and Garden of Remembrance - Dublin

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The presentation of a framed copy of minutes from 30 years ago regarding the engagement of Sir TD Rice Memorial and Downpatrick Defenders Flute Band.



The Standard and Bass Drum marking the 30 year association between Sir TD Rice Memorial and Downpatrick Defenders Flute Band.

Celebrations in 2014

150 years

RBP 160

Morning Star, Airdrie & Coatbridge District, issued on 14 March, 1864

RBP 163

Dr Moutray Memorial, Aughnacloy District, issued on 24 March, 1864

RBP 164

St Georges, Greenock & Port Glasgow District, issued on 16 March, 1864

Strabane District, County Tyrone – Original Warrant issued in 1864 – Sir Knight unknown

125 years

RBP 133

Pride of Richhill, Markethill District, issued on 22 May, 1889

RBP 178

King Solomon's Royal Black Knights, Sandy Row District, issued on 20 June, 1889

RBP 266

Shanehill Rising Star, Tandragee District, issued on 27 March, 1889

RBP 504

Garvagh Star of Bethlehem, Coleraine District, issued on 22 February, 1889

Centenary

RBP 901

St Simon's Total Abstinence, Sandy Row District, issued 4 February, 1914

RBP 916

McMordie Memorial Temp, Clifton Street No 5 District, issued on 3 November, 1914



Members of Portadown RBP 267 pictured before a recent parade.

Ballymacarrett hosts 120th anniversary parade

Ballymacarrett Royal Black District Chapter No.4 will parade around East Belfast to mark its 120th anniversary on Saturday, 17th May, leaving Templemore Avenue beside Ballymacarrett Orange Hall (Albertbridge Road) at 7pm.

The date of the parade corresponds to the closest Saturday to the re-issued Warrant date for the District Chapter on 20th May, 1909. It is envisaged that a social function will be held in Ballymacarrett Orange Hall at the close of the parade.

*Neither is there
salvation in any
other: for there is
none other name
under heaven
given among
men, whereby we
must be saved.*

*ACTS, Chapter 4
verse 12*

Mount Horeb RBP 170 and Loughbrickland Black Evangelical Fellowship



Sir Knt. William Walsh, Worshipful Master of Mount Horeb R.B.P. No. 170, Rathfriland presents Sir Knt. Samuel Walker, with his Past Masters Jewel of R.B.P. 170, in Rathfriland Orange Hall. © Photo: Gary Gardiner.

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Worshipful Master Sir Knt. William Walsh and Sir Knt. David Irvine, Deputy Master of Mount Horeb R.B.P. No. 170, Rathfriland, made a presentation of Red Cross Certificates to Sir Knt. Stuart Ferris, Sir Knt. Raymond Walsh, Sir Knt. Jonathan Little, Sir Knt. Geoffrey Little, Sir Knt. Alexander Waddell, Sir Knt. David Little, Sir Knt. Matthew Walsh, Sir Knt. Raymond Walsh and Sir Knt. Kenneth Dodds received by his father Sir Knt. Joseph Dodds. © Photo: Gary Gardiner.



Sir Knights of Mount Horeb R.B.P. No. 170, who received Red Cross Certificates including Sir Knt. Stuart Ferris, Sir Knt. Raymond Walsh, Sir Knt. Jonathan Little, Sir Knt. Geoffrey Little, Sir Knt. Alexander Waddell, Sir Knt. David Little, Sir Knt. Matthew Walsh, Sir Knt. Kenneth Dodds received by his father Sir Knt. Joseph Dodds and Sir Knt. Raymond Walsh, presented by Sir Knt. William Walsh, Worshipful Master and Sir Knt. David Irvine, Deputy Master. Also included are fellow Sir Knights R.B.P. No. 170 with Sir Knt. Samuel Heenan, Deputy District Master, Rathfriland District Royal Black Chapter No. 7 and Sir Knt. Ivor Walsh, District Registrar, Rathfriland District Royal Black Chapter No. 7. © Photo: Gary Gardiner.



Sir Knight Paul Clydesdale, welcomes guest speaker Pastor Kenny Wilson, Banbridge Baptist Church, to the 'Big Breakfast' hosted by Sir Knights of Loughbrickland Evangelical Fellowship, including Gordon McDowell and Alan Rogers. Also included is Sir Knight Pastor Roy Graham, District Chaplain, Rathfriland Royal Black District Chapter No. 7. © Photo: Gary Gardiner.

Carol Service in County Tyrone

Garvetagh Guiding Star RBP No 76, in Tyrone, held their annual country style carol service in Garvetagh Orange Hall in December.

Members and friends arrived to seasonal music and old style lighting provided by tilly and hurricane lamps. WM Sir Knight Aelfryn Young, welcomed everyone and invited Sir Knight William Montgomery, Lay Preacher and Imperial Deputy Grand Master to conduct the service.

Rev. Robert Orr, Minister of nearby First Castlederg Presbyterian Church, conducted the opening and closing prayers and the Christmas story was revealed once again in the scripture passages read by Sir Knights Stevan Bogle, Ian Clarke, Don Keatley, Andrew Johnston, Alastair Patterson, James Young,

Ronald Thompson, Herbert Young and James Emery.

Traditional carols were sung by the large congregation accompanied by Mrs Janette Lowry on the organ and Sir Knights Alan, Albert and Robert Keatley, members of Aghyran Accordion Band.

The offering, in aid of the Bible Society and Mission Aviation Fellowship, which are the Sovereign Grand Master's Charities for 2014, was taken up by Sir Knight Thompson Young a member of the preceptory and Bro Bertie Stewart a member of Garvetagh True Blues LOL No 1486.

Sir Knight Gerald Montgomery, the Deputy Master of the preceptory, proposed the vote of thanks and invited everyone to supper which was served by the ladies.



Pictured being presented with his 1st Lects Certificate at the District meeting in Killyman Orange Hall on 29th January is Sir Knight Henry Newell of RBP No 4 Bush by SGM SK Millar Farr. Also included are Sir Knight Desmond Bloomer DDM, Sir Knight Richard Emerson WDM and Sir Knight Iain McFarland District Lecturer.

Long Service Medal



Sir Knight Stewart Cameron of Morning Star RBP 160 receiving his 50 years' Service Medal from Sir Knight Matt Sime.

See page 20 for more presentations

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Brownlow Presidential Connection

Brownlow House, headquarters of the Royal Black Institution throughout the world, has had many visitors since the renovation work was carried out on the magnificent building.

A recent example was the visit of a large party of Americans, representing the city of LaGrange in Georgia.

LaGrange is the sister city of Craigavon and the group was in Northern Ireland to attend the annual conference of Sister City International - the first time this prestigious conference has been held outside the United States of America.

Brownlow House was among the places of interest selected by the Craigavon Sister City International committee to show the Americans.

In her speech at a civic reception for the American visitors, hosted by Craigavon Borough Council, the then Mayor, Councillor Meta Crozier, referred to the fact that the American guests would be including Brownlow House in their itinerary.

The Mayor said this was most appropriate and she told the Americans that, during World War Two, many of their countrymen were



stationed at Brownlow House, being used as a military headquarters - as it was in the First World War.

The Mayor revealed that the most distinguished American to be at Brownlow House during the war was General Dwight D Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces.

Councillor Crozier informed the LaGrange visitors that General

Eisenhower had slept two nights at Brownlow House, during the discussions leading to the D-Day Invasion.

The Americans were fascinated and Councillor Crozier said she was delighted that they would be taken on a tour of the most historic building in Craigavon.

She also said how pleased she was that her husband, Sir Knight

John Crozier, would be conducting the visitors on their tour of the building.

The visitors certainly were impressed and said afterwards that it had been one of the highlights of their tour of Craigavon, made all the more interesting by the link with General Eisenhower.

Eisenhower, later President of the United States of America, was instrumental in founding the Sister City International project in 1956. This encouraged American cities to 'twin' with others throughout the world, in order to foster good relations and create greater understanding between people.

Craigavon was twinned with LaGrange, a city in Georgia, 13 years ago and it has proved to be one of the most successful of the twinning programme.

Brownlow House is certainly the 'Jewel in the Crown' as far as historic buildings in Craigavon is concerned and it is visited by many people during the year. It is also the venue for an increasing number of wedding receptions and functions and was even the venue for the County Armagh Orange Twelfth demonstration in recent years.



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Ontario welcomes a new Knight

Arbah RBP 159, Niagara Falls, Eastern Ontario, has welcomed a new Sir Knight into the Preceptory. The new Sir Knight, James Stewart, was initiated by the Provincial Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Sri Knight Brian Thompson and Wor. Sir Knight Michael Thomas, Provincial Grand Chaplain.

On conclusion of the Royal Black Degree lunch was served to all present by Mrs Trish Thompson and was much appreciated by all concerned.

In the afternoon Sir Knight Stewart received the Royal Scarlet and Royal Mark Degrees. This was a most enjoyable day for all present and added another Sir Knight to the strength of RBP 159.



New Sir Knight James Stewart, (seated, left) and Sir Knight Fred Penne, the Worshipful Preceptor (seated, right) pictured with (back row, from left), Sir Knights Michael Thomas, Sam Ferguson, Ed Johnston, Jim Pyke (RBP 398, Eastern Ontario), Ron Johnson (RBP 292 Toronto) and Brian Thompson (Provincial Grand Master).

County Cavan presentations



Pictured at Cloverhill Orange Hall following presentation to Sir Knight William Roberts and his wife Ivy to mark William's retirement as County Grand Master of County Cavan Grand Black Chapter after 24 years.



The officers of County Cavan Grand Black Chapter pictured at Cloverhill Orange Hall following the dedication of new collarettes. Front row - Sir Knight William Abernethy, Past IGT, Sir Knight William Maguire Treasurer, Sir Knight James Mayne CGM, Sir Knight William Roberts, Past CGM and Sir Knight Robert Dane CGM Fermanagh. Back row - Sir Knight Joseph Morton, DCGM, Sir Knight Henry Jordan, Registrar, Sir Knight David Morton, Lecturer and Sir Knight Henry Latimer, Master of Ceremonies. Missing from the photo is Sir Knight William Heaslip, Lay Chaplain.

Brookeborough Methodist Church Celebrating 175 Years 1839 - 2014

Flower Festival "Hymns Through the Seasons"

Friday 23rd May 2014 (3pm - 6pm)

Service 8pm (Rev Dr. Heather Morris)

Saturday 24th May (10am - 9pm)

Sunday 25th May (2pm - 9pm)

Monday 26th May (10am - 6pm)

Praise Service 8pm (Rev. Andrew Kingston)

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All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Ps 66 v 4

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St. Simons Total Abstinence RBP 901 celebrates 100 years

St Simon's Total Abstinence RBP 901 has celebrated its 100th anniversary with a dinner in Sandy Row Orange Hall on 7th February and a service of thanksgiving in St Simon's Parish Church on Sunday 9th February, 2014.

As part of the celebrations, A Brief History 1914-2014 was written and below is an excerpt -

'A preliminary meeting was held on 14th November 1913 in St Simon's School, Donegall Road, Belfast for the purpose to inaugurate a new Preceptory and to appoint officers under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of Ireland with its foundations based firmly on scriptural truths and the propagation of the Christian Reformed Faith.

There were nine Sir Knights present with the following appointments to office:

Sir Knt Robert Neill (Worshipful Master), Sir Knt Thomas Lyons (Deputy Master), Sir Knt Johnston



Sir Knights of St Simon's Total Abstinence RBP along with Rev Raymond Moore following the service of praise and thanksgiving to mark the 100th anniversary.

Jordan (Chaplain), Sir Knt Moore Robinson (Registrar), Sir Knt Samuel

uel Tate (Treasurer), Sir Knt Samuel Vaughan (First Lecturer) Sir Knt William Surgeon (Foreman).

On 23th December 1913 an application was made to No3 Royal Black District Chapter, Sandy Row, Belfast for a warrant to be issued to St Simon's Total Abstinence. A subsequent meeting was held on 6th January 1914 in Sandy Row Orange Hall to establish the Preceptory's first Bye Law which was for the Preceptory to meet on the first Wednesday in each month.

The District Officers of No3 Royal Black District Chapter, Sandy Row met with the elected Officers of the Preceptory on 4th February 1914 to make suitable arrangements for their installation and the issue of a warrant. The date agreed was 12th February 1914.

On this date, St Simon's Total Abstinence was opened with prayer and portion of scripture. The installation of Officers was undertaken by the Worshipful District Master, Sir Knt William Cross, assisted by Sir Knt Fred Bridgett in the vice chair. The warrant was read to the Preceptory by Sir Knt Samuel Green, District Treasurer and duly handed over to the newly installed Worshipful Master and given the number of 'RBP 901'. Sir Knt Robert Neill then took the chair, assisted by his new officers to conduct the business of the Preceptory. At this stage 12 Brethren were proposed to become Sir Knights of

the Preceptory. There being no further business the Preceptory was closed in ritual form - God save the King.

On 5th August 1914 the warrant of the Preceptory was framed at a cost of 7s 6d which hangs proudly in its Preceptory room, Sandy Row Orange Hall.

The Preceptory has always had a tradition of being actively involved in promoting and maintaining the precepts and beliefs of the Orange and Black Institutions. This is evident in the significant number of Sir Knights who have held positions in senior office at all levels including Grand Lodge and the Imperial Grand Black Chapter throughout our 100 years.

The Preceptory continues to go from strength to strength but is always conscious that recruitment and retention of members is paramount in maintaining the Preceptory and, with God's help, achieving another 100 years.

At this time of celebration we remember and say thank you to all those Sir Knights who, 100 years ago, became the founder members of St Simon's Total Abstinence RBP.

In this our 100th year, St Simon's Total Abstinence RBP 901 will continue to promote the precepts and beliefs of the Black Institution and encourage all Sir Knights to continue to maintain the faith of the King of Kings, Lord of Lords.



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Successful mission in Rathfriland

In 2012, the institution launched a project called 'Take 5' which was to study and explore the five Solas of the Reformation, which underpins the Protestant faith. The purpose was to take a 'New Look At Old Truths' and enthuse, educate and evangelise our members and the wider community.

The members of Rathfriland Royal Black District Chapter and Rathfriland Orange District fully embraced this initiative with Pastor Roy Graham being the driving force behind its success. After many months of planning and prayer, a breakfast was held in Rathfriland Orange Hall to engage and enlighten local ministers to the background and missionary zeal for the forthcoming mission.

With the speakers, praise groups and bands secured, the mission was launched on Sunday, 27th October with a parade and

service in Rathfriland High School. The event was attended by the Grandmasters Sir Knight and Bro Edward Stevenson of the Orange Institution and Sir Knight and Bro Millar Farr from the Royal Black Institution and other distinguished guests.

The parade was led by Benraw, Ardaraigh and Moneyslane Bands with over 300 members of the Loyal Orders in attendance and great support from the general public. Sir Knight and Bro Jack Greenald spoke on Martin Luther with Esther Mark singing three lovely pieces.

Each night Royal Black chaplains Rev. Nigel Reid, Rev. John Noble, Rev. David Reid, Rev. William Anderson and Sir Knight and Bro Raymond Adams preached on the Solas, accompanied by praise groups and local bands who praised God through music and song. At the conclusion of the mission over 1,100 people



Sir Knights of Rathfriland Royal Black Chapter No.7 presenting a cheque to the Southern Area Hospice. The proceeds were raised at a Carol Service held in Ballyronney Orange Hall.

had attended and many people were revitalised and challenged, which was evident by God's presence throughout the mission. Each minister challenged their respective gatherings on the spiritual necessity of accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour as

well as giving a thorough explanation on each of the Solas.

On the final evening a cheque for £2,000 was presented to the Christian Institute, who do sterling work protecting and upholding the right of persecuted Christians through-

out the UK.

Through prayer, this week of mission exceeded all expectations and, with continued prayer, revival will occur throughout our land and people will return to the fundamentals of our faith and Biblical practice.

King David's Royal Knights meet at Brownlow House



Pictured are members of King David's Royal Knights RBP No 443, including the Deputy District Master of Primatial Royal Black District Chapter No 4, Sir Knight Gordon Wakenshaw.

The October meeting of King David's Royal Knights RBP No 443 was held in the Cushnie Room of Brownlow House. This was followed by supper and a tour of the House by Sir Knight Malcolm Fulton of Portadown Royal Black District Chapter No 5 which was most informative.

The Perceptory was formed in 1945 and holds its meetings in Aghavilly Orange Hall, situate approximately five miles from Armagh City, where this year's Last Saturday demonstration will be held.



Members of Morning Star RBP 160, including WM Sir Knight Matthew Sime, pictured to mark their 150th anniversary.

Morning Star to celebrate 150 years

Morning Star RBP 160 has organised a series of events to mark their 150th anniversary.

The programme of events includes:

- 18 April - Social Night with Prince of Orange Flute Band and Ulster visitors, 7pm start - open to all.
- 19 April - Installation meeting 1pm, followed by a parade in Coatbridge at 3pm. Dinner Dance at 7pm, with entertainment by Bobby Parks. Invited guests.

- 3 August - Provincial Annual Divine Service.
- 9 August - 325th Demonstration in Edinburgh. Club evening entertainment - John Pears.
- 28 August 2014 - Ulster visit to include cultural visit to Londonderry on Friday. Black Demonstration on Saturday Belfast/Larne. Evening with Sir Knights of RBP 224 Beaconsfield, Belfast. Return 31 August.
- 18 October - Preceptory Supper Dance at 7.30pm.

Long Service Medals



40 Year Long Service Medals were presented by WDM David Livingstone on Wednesday 20th November 2013 in Cloughan Orange Hall to members of RBP 241, Primatial District No 4, County Armagh - (back row) Sir Knights Ian Irwin, David Livingstone, WDM, William Hutchinson, WM RBP 241, and William Walker. Front row - Sir Knights George Walker, Samuel Walker and Harold George.



Sir Knight David Livingstone, District Master of Primatial District (back row) pictured with Sir Knights George, Samuel, and William Walker who all joined RBP 241 on 19th January 1974.



Sir Knights of Bethlehems Golden Star RBP 502 Derrylileagh, who were presented with long Service Jewels by the WDM of Summerisland Royal Black District Chapter No 6, Sir Knight Denis Rodgers (far right). They are from (2nd left to right) Sir Knt. Herbert Anderson (40 years), Sir Knt. William Ogilby (45 years) and Sir Knt. Sydney Anderson (40 years). Also in Picture is Sir Knt. Paul Riley District Lecturer (far left), Sir Knt. Gordon Beacom WM (far right) and Sir Knt. Robert Greenaway DM.



97-year-old Sir Knight James McQueen, of North Belfast Temperance RBP 652, No. 1 District Clifton Street, being presented with his 50 year jewel at the Last Saturday demonstration in Newtownards.



Sir Knight Mervyn McFarland receiving his 50-year long service Jewel from Rt Wor Sir Knight William Abernethy.



Sir Knights the Rev Sam McComb and James McCartney, of RBP 65, being presented with their 50-year long service jewels by Wor Sir Knight Cuthbert Managh, District Master of East Tyrone District, Wor Sir Knight Richrd Reid, District Registrar and Wor Sir Knight David Millae, Deputy District Master.

Cheques & Charity Presentations

Banbridge District 6 cheque



Representatives of Night Reach, the Coal Fund, Donard Special School, the Talking Newspaper and the Gateway Club receive a donation of £500 each from representatives of Banbridge Black District No 6, including DDM Sir Knight Phillip Hutton, Treasurer Sir Knight Nigel Dowds, Deputy Treasurer Sir Knight Ivan Woods, Registrar Sir Knight Trevor Martin, and Lay Chaplain Sir Knight Alan Rodgers. Not included in the picture but who also received a £500 donation were the Special Olympics.

Banbridge Black District No 6 has handed over a number of £500 cheques to local charities.

The local charities selected include Night Reach, whose members stay out on Saturday nights helping those who might be vulnerable after a night out.

A presentation was also made to the Coal Fund, which provides help to those who are at risk in the winter months from the cold and do not have enough to keep themselves heated.

Donard Special School also received a donation while Talking Newspaper, which reads and records to CD the local newspaper for the visually impaired keeping them in touch with local events, received a cheque.

The final two cheque presentations were made to the Gateway Club, a local social club for children who have disabilities and the Special Olympics, which aims to help special needs children through sport.



After their parade in Scarva on 13th July, Sir Knights from Pride of Richhill RBP 133 held a collection and raised £200 which they decided to donate to the Neonatal Unit at Craigavon Area Hospital. The Worshipful Master of RBP 133, Scott Hayes, accompanied by other members of the Perceptory to present the cheque to Lynne Robinson and Gill Tedford, who are both nurses at the unit.



Mayor of Lisburn, Councillor Margaret Tolerton, receiving a cheque for £700 from the Worshipful Master Sir Knight David Toole of Hillhall Golden Star RBP 1074. Also present are the Chaplain Sir Knight Noel Martin (left) and the Deputy Master Sir Knight Stephen Martin.



Lower Iveagh Royal Black District present Professor Joe O'Sullivan with a cheque for £555 for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University for research into prostate cancer. The money was raised at the week of the Take Five project and the annual District Service.



Officers from County Down Grand Black Chapter present Professor Joe O'Sullivan with a cheque for £300 money raised at the County meetings.

Installations & Banners

New Banner for RBP 131

The Sir Knights of Mount Carmel RBP 131, Banbridge, had the pleasure of the company of the Sovereign Grand Master MW Sir Knight Millar Farr at the unfurling of their new banner.

Dignitaries included ASGM MW Sir Knight Andy McRoberts, MW Sir Knight William Logan PSGM, Wor Sir Knight David Livingstone Imperial Grand Treasurer, Wor Sir Knight Colin Whiteside CGM Co. Down, Sir Knight Edgar Patterson WDM, Sir Knight Phillip Hutton DDM, Sir Knight Nigel Dowds District Treas-

urer and other visiting County and District Officers.

The Sir Knights of Eldon RBP 33 Newbliss received a warm welcome to Banbridge strengthening the close link with RBP 131 and RBP 33.

The service was conducted by Wor Sir Knight Norman Hutton DCGC Co. Down, with the banner being unfurled by Mrs Nora Cairns, wife of the WM of RBP 131. Wor Sir Knight Rev Hutton dedicated the banner and delivered an uplifting and inspiring address. This was followed by the guest speaker MW Sir Knight Mil-

lar Farr SGM who was warmly received by the Sir Knights of RBP 131 and visiting Sir Knights.

Following the unfurling, the banner was paraded through the streets of Banbridge, with the Sir Knights being accompanied by Pride of the Birches Accordion Band and Ballycoan Flute Band.

The Sir Knights of Mount Carmel RBP 131 also proudly carried their new banner at the Black Saturday demonstration in Banbridge in 2013.



The Sir Knights of Mount Carmel RBP 131, Banbridge, with their beautiful new banner.



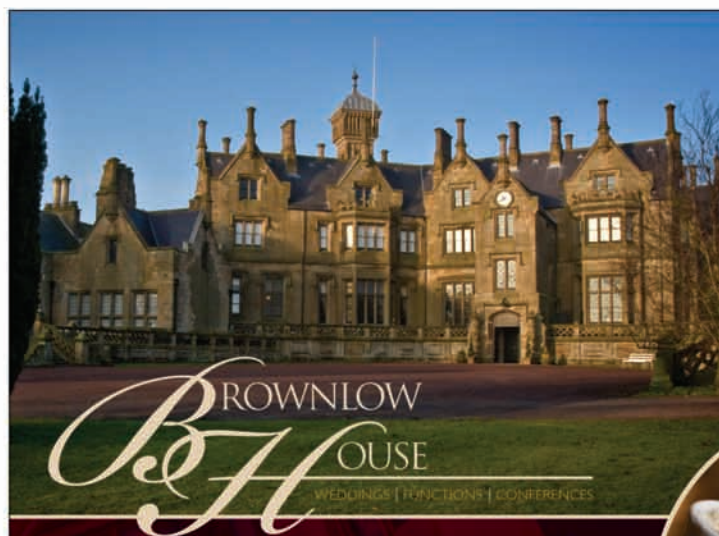
Members of the Ancient Sons of William RBP 118 from Banbridge pictured with their new banner which was on parade at the Last Saturday.



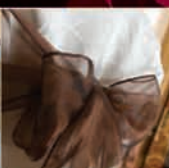
Members of Ballinamallard Crimson Heroes, RBP 272, Fermanagh, and guests pictured with Sir Knight Robert Aiken (front centre) to mark his 70 years' service on 11th March 2014.



The members of Brackley RBP343, East Tyrone district, taken before parading the village of Beragh on the Last Saturday morning, prior to heading to Dungannon. Photographer Isobel O'Brein.



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Red Cross Presentations

Prerresentation of Red Cross Certificates at Ballywillwill, Co Down

Sir Knight David Perry, WDM, Castlewellan RBDC No 3 presented Red Cross certificates to Sir Knights Rev. George Speers, William Quinn, William Perry from RBP 93 and Sir Knight Mervyn McNeill from RBP No 15 in Ballywillwill Orange Hall on Monday 10th February, 2014.

Sir Knight David Perry, WDM also presented a 50 year jewel and medal for long service as Registrar to Sir Knight John McBride, RBP No 6. A great evening of fellowship was held by all with tea was served by the Sir Knights of Ballywillwill RBP No 6.



Pictured (from left) Sir Knights Mervyn Kernaghan, Lecturer, William Quinn, RBP No 93, William Perry, RBP No 93, David Perry, W.D.M., Rev. George Speers, RBP No 93, Mervyn McNeill, RBP No 15 and George McLoughlin, Lecturer.



From left -Sir Knights David Scott, DM, John McBride, Registrar, David Perry, W.D.M., and Lee McBride, WM of RBP No 6



Sir Knights William Quinn, Rev. George Speers, William Perry and Mervyn McNeill with their Red Cross certificates. Also included in the photo are the visiting Sir Knights.



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr pictured at the installation of officers of Maiden City RBP 113 and the presentation of nine Red Cross certificates.



The Worshipful Master of RBP 113, Sir Knight Gordon Porter presenting a plaque of Londonderry to the Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr. Photographs courtesy of Londonderry Sentinel.



Sir Knight Robert Wallace, District Master Portadown Royal Black District Chapter No 5, presents Sir Knight William Caughey Portadown Ex-Servicemen's RBP 326 with his Red Cross Certificate recently.

Presentations to Richhill RBP 133

Pride of Richhill RBP 133 held their February meeting in Brownlow House, with the occasion of conferring of the Red Cross degree to six Sir Knights by Sir Knight James Finch and Sir Knight Robert Preston.

The Red Cross certificates were presented by Most Worshipful Sir Knight Millar Farr QPM, Sovereign Grand Master, who also congratulated each Sir Knight. As well as the Red Cross degrees be-

ing conferred, 40-year jewels were presented to Sir Knight's William Nellins and Roger Gill and a 50-year Bar was also presented to Sir Knight Matthew Clarke.

RBP 133 will be celebrating their 125 year anniversary in May and the Sovereign Grand Master as well as congratulating the Preceptory presented Sir Knight Scott Hayes WM with a Bible. Following the closing of the meeting Sir Knights enjoyed the festive board.

Cheques & Charity Presentations

Big breakfast in Markethill

Markethill Royal Black District Chapter No 3 recently held a breakfast in Cladymore Church Hall and presented a cheque to the Southern Area Hospice during the morning - the proceeds of the Annual Christmas Carol Service in December.

As part of the proceedings, Sir Knight Rev Nigel Reid, Deputy Imperial Grand Chaplain, outlined the basis of the Royal Black Institution and in particular the 'Take 5' project. The event was also part of the District Fellowship Outreach Programme, instigated by Sir Knight Rev Nigel Reid, to get non-members along to hear of the basis of the Institution and hopefully take out membership.

The District Chapter was honoured to have the Sovereign Grand Master, Rt Wor Sir Knight Millar Farr, present and he outlined the charitable work over recent years of the Institution. Also present was the Deputy County Grand Master, Sir Knight David Livingstone, and the County Grand Registrar, Sir Knight Robin Diffin.

Everyone was welcomed by the Worshipful District Master, Sir Knight Tom McBirney, and at the conclusion, the Deputy District Master, Sir Knight William Copeland, gave the vote of thanks, in particular to the ladies of the Cladymore Presbyterian Church for the magnificent breakfast. A collection was also taken for this year's charitable appeal.



Sir Knight Rev Nigel Reid, Deputy Imperial Grand Chaplain, addresses those present at the breakfast held by Markethill Royal Black District Chapter No. 3



Myrtle and Neville Pogue, Southern Area Hospice receiving a cheque from members of Markethill Royal Black District Chapter No 3, Sir Knight William Copeland, Deputy District Master and Sir Knight Tom McBirney, Worshipful District Master.



Sir Knight Thomas Wylie, WDM, Newry District RBDC No 4; and member of Altnaveigh Royal Prince RBP 158 and Sir Knight Kenneth Wharton, member of Royal Dysart RBP 215, presenting a cheque for £2,651 to Wor. Sir Knight Rev. Norman Hutton, Imperial Deputy Grand Chaplain and member of Altnaveigh Royal Prince RBP 158. The above two Sir Knights raised the total of £1,495 for Church Repair Funds to Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Warrenpoint which has a small congregation.

£500 for Hospice



Tassagh RBP No 82 has made a donation of £500 to the Southern Area Hospice after money was raised on the Last Saturday, at an evening meal and at the Annual service. Pictured receiving the cheque on behalf of the hospice are Neville and Myrtle Pogue (front row, centre), along with WM John Herron and Treasurer Alex Patterson. Also included in the picture are Sir Knights (back row, from left) Stuart Crozier, Stanley McCarten, Stephen Herron and Thomas Marshall; and (centre) Chaplain Ronnie Watt, Robert Wright, David Crozier, James Rountree and Desmond Branian.

Cheques & Charity Presentations



Sir Knights of Rathfriland Royal Black Chapter No.7 present a cheque to the Southern Area Hospice. The proceeds were raised at a Carol Service held in Ballyroney Orange Hall.

Rathfriland enjoys annual Christmas Carol Service

Rathfriland Royal Black District Chapter No.7 was encouraged when upwards of 200 people turned out for their annual Christmas Carol Service, this year held in Ballyroney Orange Hall on Sunday 1st December, 2013.

There was a wonderful sense of God's presence as the congregation sang Christmas carols, led by the members of Commons Silver Band, Newry. The members of Armagh Royal Black District Male Voice Choir, shared in song, with three young people from Rathfriland District reading from the scriptures.

Sir Knight Reverend Trevor Boyd, Minister of 1st Rathfriland Presbyterian Church, shared a Gospel message about the coming

again of the Lord Jesus Christ, not as a baby, but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, to judge the living and dead. He urged each person present to be prepared and ready to meet the Lord.

At the close of the service and due to the generous giving of those present, a cheque presentation of £800 was presented to Mrs Sheelagh Weir, a local representative of the Southern Area Hospice in Newry, County Down, who in turn gave a word of thanks, for the very kind donation.

Afterwards everyone enjoyed afternoon tea with traditional mince pies, kindly provided by members of the local Preceptories, and served by the ladies of Sir Knights of Ballyroney Royal Black Preceptory.

Marie Cure Cancer Care presentation from RBP No.184

A cheque for £300 has been presented by Sir Knight William Fyffe Memorial, Strabane RBP No.184 on behalf of Strabane District Black Chapter No.2 to the charity Marie Curie Cancer Care.

The presentation was made by Sir Knight John Dunn, WM Strabane RBP No 184 to Mr Leslie Shiels, Area Convenor for Marie Curie Cancer Care at a recent meeting in the Bro. John Sayers Memorial Orange Hall, Strabane. The money was made up of the share proceeds from the 2013 Charity Cricket Match between the Orange and Black Districts in Strabane.

Also pictured (fromleft) are Rt. Wor. Sir Knight William Abernethy, County Grand Master of Tyrone; Sir Knight David Colhoun, Chaplain Strabane District No.2; Sir Knight Derek McDermott DDM, Strabane District No.2; Sir Knight Malcolm Mutch, Registrar Strabane RBP No.184 and Sir Knight Ian Donnell WDM Strabane District No.2.

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2013 Relief
of Derry
Demonstration
- Govan R.B.D.C
No.7



Sir Knight Stephen Frame Deputy Provincial Grand Master presents Joe Mooney of the Prince of Orange FB with the best Drum Major award for the 2013 Annual Demonstration. Also in the photo is Sir Knight Billy Glen Deputy Master of Morning Star RBP 160.



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - Visiting Preceptory Ulster RBP 768 (Donaghdee)



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - Sir Knights Malcolm Campbell & Dawson Baillie listening to the platform proceedings



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - P.G.B.C Officers approaching the War Memorial Renfrew



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - Netherton Road Flute Band on the march



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - James Martin Memorial R.B.D.C No.11



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - Shield Presentation to Worshipful Master of RBP 296 Hope of Airdrie



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - Sir Knight Edward McGonnell PM RBP 1180 with his Preceptory bannerette



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - Airdrie & Coatbridge R.B.D.C No.3



2013 Relief of Derry Demonstration - the last Sir Knight on parade in Renfrew!



Notes from England & Scotland



Sir Knight Hugh Law of Hamilton Covenanters Memorial R.B.P 360, Motherwell RBDC 6, receiving his 30-year long service medal at a recent meeting from RWM of RBP 360, Sir Knight Greg Strachan.

Burns supper in Motherwell

Motherwell RBDC No 6 recently held their Annual Burns Supper in Craigneuk Orange Hall.

This year's event was hosted by Craigneuk Golden Star RBP 121 and was very well attended by Sir Knights and friends who filled the hall to capacity. Guest of honour for the evening was Sir Knight Stephen Frame, Provincial Deputy Grand Master of Scotland.

Sir Knight James Forsyth, RWDM, wishes to thank the Hall Committee and catering team of Craigneuk Orange Hall, RBP 121 and all the artistes who entertained the company on this evening.



Sir Knight Robin Brown, PM of Hamilton Covenanters Memorial RBP 360, Motherwell RBDC 6, receiving his 40 year Long Service medal at a recent meeting from RWM of RBP 360, Sir Knight Greg Strachan.

Obituary – Sir Knight James Stewart

Members of Hamilton Covenanters Memorial RBP 360, Motherwell RBDC 6, have paid tribute to Sir Knight James Stewart, who sadly passed away in the early hours of Friday 10th January, 2014 after a short illness.

Sir Knight Stewart's funeral was held on Wednesday the 15th of January within the South Parish Church in Hamilton then onto South Lanarkshire Crematorium. Sir Knight Stewart was a long serving Member of RBP 360, having recently been presented with his 25-year long service bar. Sir Knight Stewart is survived by his wife Jean. Sir Knight Stewart will be sadly missed by all his family and friends and is a great loss to RBP 360 and the Royal Black Institution as a whole.



Pictured at the presentation are (from left) Sir Knight James Sideserf, PGL, Sir Knight Harry Mccoll, PPGL, Sir Knight Thomas Blair, PIDGL, Sir Knight James G Mclean, PGM, and Sir Knight Ian Girvan PDGL.

Scottish Lecturers recognition

At the recent Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland Lecturers Conference, recognition was paid to Sir Knight Thomas Blair, Past Imperial Deputy Grand Lecturer and Sir Knight Harry Mccoll, Past Provincial Grand Lecturer with the presentation of collarettes by Sir Knight James Sideserf, Provincial Grand Lecturer, on behalf of the Scottish Examining Board, with Sir Knight James G Mclean, Provincial Grand Master presenting a special certificate to Sir Knight Blair from the Sovereign Grand Master and Imperial Chapter.



Ancient Sons of William RBP 118 - Officers photograph at taken their November meeting

D. R. Brewster LL.B.

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